

CD 2006 -- 78 / 79



Nobuya SUGAWA

One of the world's best saxophone soloists - his exciting performances have created a new popularity for the classical saxophone.

MASTER CLASS:

Monday, November 6th - 11:00am
University of Toronto Faculty of Music
Edward Johnson Bldg. - Walter Hall
TICKETS - FREE available at the door.

Nobuya SUGAWA

One of Japan's most distinguished saxophonists, Nobuya Sugawa studied at Tokyo University of Fine Arts and Music. Sugawa performs over one hundred recitals and concerts per year and has recorded more than 20 CDs, including the highly acclaimed Takashi Yoshimatsu's *Saxophone Concerto Cyber-bird* with BBC Philharmonic (CHANDOS) and *MADE IN JAPAN* (Toshiba-EMI).

Nobuya has worked with most of Japan's leading orchestras, Philharmonia Orchestra, BBC Philharmonic, Eastman Wind Ensemble, Orchestra Harmonie de la Garde Republicaine, and Aagauer Symphonic Orchestra in Switzerland. In 2001, he performed with NHK Symphony Orchestra conducted by Charles Dutoit.

He toured with jazz bassist Ron Carter in 2000 and with guitarist Martin Taylor in 2002. In 2003, he played at Musikverein Brahmssaal, Vienna.

He has given master classes at music colleges throughout Japan, Europe and the United States. In 2004, he performed with the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra as concert master for their 20th anniversary. His teaching materials with text and CDs are published by De Haske Publications.

Midori NAGAHARA *piano*

Midori Nagahara was born in Saitama. She graduated from Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music with top honors. She has won grand prizes at number of Japanese competitions and festivals. She has performed with leading orchestras including the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra, and Central Aichi Symphony Orchestra.

Midori is on faculty with the Tokyo National University of Fine Arts & Music and also works as a freelance accompanist.

Jimmy DORSEY (Arranged by Susumu KUSAKABE) **Oodles of Noodles (Alto)**

James "Jimmy" Dorsey (1904 – 1957) was a saxophonist who flourished at the dawn of jazz, beginning in the 1920's. Known as a child prodigy and at the age of seven, he was already playing the slide trumpet and the cornet in his father's brass band in Pennsylvania. In 1933, he and his brother formed the "Dorsey Brothers Orchestra".

Dating from around the time that the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra was formed, this playful tune seems at home in a dance hall or a crowded jazz café and is almost always a crowd favourite.

Lars-Erik LARSSON **Saxophone Concerto Op. 14 (Alto)**

Lars-Erik Larsson (1908 – 1986) studied composition at the Stockholm Conservatory with Ernst Ellberg in his early years. He continued his studies with Alban Berg in Vienna the following year, and thereafter, 1930 – 1931, with Fritz Reuter in Leipzig. This piece was composed after he left his mother country and furthered his studies. Larsson's inclination to the emerging and evolving neo-classical movement can be clearly heard throughout the concerto.

With the writing of the Saxophone Concerto, Larsson contributed significantly to the growth of the saxophone tradition in Sweden – a tradition which has moved on to other composers and performers, who have brought about international recognition and success.

Takashi YOSHIMATSU **Fuzzy Bird Sonata Op. 44 (Alto)**

Takashi Yoshimatsu (1953 -) was born in Tokyo, Japan, and like Toru Takemitsu, the composer generally considered to be Japan's greatest in the western classical style, did not receive formal musical training while growing up. He left the faculty of technology of Keio University in 1972, and joined an amateur band as a keyboard player, emulating the music of Pink Floyd. He became interested in the jazz and progressive rock scenes, particularly in the possibilities being explored through electronic music.

Commissioned by Sugawa and completed in 1999, Fuzzy Bird Sonata consists of three movements. The first movement, "Run Bird", features an intimate interplay between saxophone and piano. In the second movement, "Sing Bird", a haunting Largo section sends the saxophone soaring over the delicate piano drone. Containing free improvisation sections, the third movement, "Fly Bird", requires the two performers to pay careful attention to each other and allows for melodic invention rarely seen in contemporary saxophone literature.



Piet SWERTS

Dance of Uzume – Dedicated to Nobuya SUGAWA (Alto)


Piet Swerts (1960 -) was the first Belgian grand-prix winner at the Queen Elizabeth International Music Competition in Composition and enjoys an international career.

This work was commissioned by Sugawa in June 2004. Upon its completion, Sugawa immediately sent the following note to the composer:

"The middle part with a rich melodious passage reminds me of the dance of Uzume that can be very expressive... the middle and the syllables that lead to it illustrate overlapping imaged of Uzume's dance getting more furious and the uproar of eight million surprised Kami breaking into laughter and excitement. Towards the end of the middle part, I can visualize that the cave, Ama-no-Iwato, was finally opened and the sun goddess Amaterasu-oh-mikami reappeared to cast in the sunlight."

Luciano BERIO

Sequenza VIIb (Sopranano)




"Sequenza", a masterpiece by the Italian composer Luciano Berio (1925 - 2003), was written either for solo instrument or solo voice. Luciano Berio wrote his Sequenzas between 1958 and 2002 with the talents of particular performers in mind. By necessity, these performers were some of modern music's elite artists. Each Sequenza is a demonstration of nearly superhuman virtuosity and extended playing techniques – an attempt to show what each musician and each instrument is capable of, within the framework of the 20th-century avant garde.

Philip SPARKE

Pantomime – Originally for Euphonium (Tenor)

Philip Sparke (1951 -) was born in London and studied composition, trumpet and piano at the Royal College of Music. It was at the College that his interest in bands arose. A close association with banding in Japan led to a commission for the Tokyo Kosei Wind Orchestra and opened the door worldwide to his wind band music. In 2005, Sparke won the National Band Association / William D. Revelli Memorial Band Composition Contest.

Pantomime was written in 1951 for Nicholas Childs, a famed English euphonium player. Although the tenor saxophone may not be as physically demanding as the euphonium, this piece is still quite challenging and is one of Sugawa's favourite solos to perform.



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Nobuya Sugawa Plays the Yamaha EX

"When playing in front of a full symphony orchestra, my EX projects easily throughout the hall. But it also offers great control for delicate pianissimo nuances in recitals with piano. The EX was created by designers and performers working closely together, and it offers the players the freedom to produce their own inner musical voice."

Sunday, November 5, 2006

University of Toronto

Faculty of Music

Walter Hall - Edward Johnson Building

Our thanks to Nobuya Sugawa, Midori Nagahara and the University of Toronto, Faculty of Music for making possible, the presentation of this world class saxophonist in Toronto.

We are very proud to support Sugawa-san
on his Canadian Debut Tour.



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